

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00

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R 230836Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2827

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 13663

WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
INVOLVED

NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: PLA ENTERS FUKIEN

REF: DLO HK 2507 230315Z

1. A BROADCAST OVER FUKIEN FRONT RADIO ON NOVEMBER 21 HAS NOTED THAT THE PLA UNITS IN THE PROVINCE, ACTING ON "CENTER INSTRUCTIONS", HAVE ORGANIZED TROOPS TO SPREAD CENTER GUIDANCE IN A PANOPLY OF PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO SINGLE OUT FELLOW-TRAVELERS OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" AND TO ASSIST IN PROMOTING THE SITUATION IN "REVOLUTION AND PRODUCTION". WORKING TOGETHER, THE PLA AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES "SOLVED PROBLEMS", AND THE PLA WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN "REVISING" PLANS IN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY. IN NOTING THAT THE UNITS HAVE SUPPORTED THE LOCAL PARTY
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COMMITTEES IN THEIR MOVES AGAINST "SPLITTISTS" AND

"REVISIONISTS", THE BROADCAST MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PLA HAS A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN POSSIBLE PURGES IN THE PROVINCE.

2. FUKIEN HAS LONG BEEN A PROBLEM, AND THE CHAOTIC SITUATION THERE EARLIER IN THE YEAR HAS APPARENTLY DETERIORATED EVEN FURTHER (HONG KONG A-100). RECENT COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTIES IN FUKIEN HAVE DESCRIBED AGWED FACTIONAL FIGHTING AND AN ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF PARTY CONTROL AT THE HSIEN AND LOWER LEVELS -- A SITUATION THAT HAS REPORTEDLY CONTINUED SINCE THE FALL OF "THE FOUR".

3. PLA INVOLVEMENT IN FUKIEN SEEMS MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE THAN ITS HIGHLY PUBLICIZED MOVE TO QUELL FACTIONALISM IN CHEKIANG FACTORIES IN THE SUMMER OF 1975. THAT ACTION RESULTED IN THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE PROVINCIAL AND HANGCHOW CITY PARTY COMMITTEES. THE ALMOST OVERWHELMING NATURE OF THE PLA'S MOVEMENT INTO FUKIEN AFFAIRS IS AN INDICATOR OF HOW SERIOUS THE SITUATION HAS BECOME IN THE PROVINCE AND MAY PRESAGE A COMPLETE REVAMPING OF THE PROVINCIAL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES. PROVINCIAL CCP FIRST SECRETARY LIAO CHIH-KAO, LONG UNDER ATTACK BY DISSATISFIED ELEMENTS SEEMS INCAPABLE OF EXERTING THE NECESSARY DEGREE OF CONTROL AND HIS SPORADIC APPEARANCE RECORD AT RECENT PROVINCIAL EVENTS COULD MEAN HE IS A TARGET FOR REPLACEMENT (HONG KONG 11032).

4. THE CENTER'S FIRM MOVE IN FUKIEN ALSO PROVIDES A GOOD CLUE AS TO HOW IT INTENDS TO DEAL WITH CONTINUED FACTIONAL DISSIDENCE. BEARING OUT THIS NO-NONSENSE APPROACH, LIBERATION ARMY DAILY, THE OFFICIAL PLA ORGAN, HAS EDITORIALIZED (NOVEMBER 22). 9, 5#3 ,33\$ 59 .-8,5-8, - 549,& 3, 3 9* \$8 :80)8,3. A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TARGETED IN OTHER PROVINCES (HONG KONG 13580) AND THE FUKIEN EXPERIENCE MAY SERVE AS A WARNING TO PARTY LEADERS IN OTHER PROVINCES TO COMPLY WITH CENTER INSTRUCTIONS AND COMPLETE LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS EXPEDITOUSLY. THE ENHANCED POLITICAL ROLE OF THE PLA IS OBVIOUS. WHILE THE BORADCAST NOTES PLA "HELP" FOR THE LOCAL PARTY LEADERSHIP, THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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COULD BE ONLY THE FIRST STEP TO OUTRIGHT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF LOCAL AFFAIRS. IF SO, THEN THE POTENTIAL FOR PARTY-PLA CONTENTION OVER POWR RESPONSIBILITIES COULD GROW IN THE COMING MONTHS.
CROSS

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